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THE RETURN FROM AUSTRIA.

The Common Cause
OF HUMANITY.

The Organ of the National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies.

LAW-ABIDING.] ***Societies and Branches in the Union* 561.** [NON-PARTY.

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"At Zurich we at last felt that we were really free again."

Return of Dr. Elsie Inglis and Her Party.

After various delays, Dr. Elsie Inglis and her party arrived in London on Tuesday, and were welcomed at Waterloo by Mrs. Hunter, Mrs. Wallace Williamson, and Miss Mair, of the Edinburgh Committee of the National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies Scottish Women's Hospitals, and several members of the London Executive. Mrs. Fawcett, who was not able to be present, sent some beautiful flowers to greet the party, and went later on to welcome them at their hotel.

It will be remembered that Dr. Inglis's Unit was stationed originally at Kragujevatz. They left this town on October 25th; before this time Serbian wounded were pouring in, Kragujevatz being a surgical base. The next station of the Unit was at Krushevatz, in the West Moravian Valley, where there was a big Serbian military hospital. All through, the Serbian authorities treated the Scottish women with the greatest consideration; they travelled in first-class carriages, but the line was blocked with soldiers and refugees and ammunition, so the journey was exasperatingly slow.

At Krushevatz they found Dr. Hollway's Unit, in charge of a large hospital annexe, holding 300 or 400 beds. With Dr. Hollway were Dr. Corbett and Dr. Scott.

"We were given the Matron Schule," Dr. Inglis told us, in relating her adventures, "which we turned into a hospital. We had brought away the whole of our equipment with us, except the iron bedsteads."

"It was thought that the Serbs would be able to hold the valley longer than they did. But we were only in Krushevatz about three weeks before the Germans came. On November 6th we were bombarded, and one of our nurses was slightly wounded by a fragment of shell. The Serbs had blown up a railway bridge not far off, and this drew the enemy's fire upon us; we had the impression, indeed, that they deliberately fired at the hospital, in spite of its Red Cross flag.

"On the Sunday morning the Germans entered the town and took the hospital away from us. They asked us if we would

take in Germans, and I said we would—we were Red Cross. About thirty German wounded were sent in, but next day we received orders to move our Serbian wounded to the Prefecture, and the following day we were told to move them all up to the Serbian Hospital. This double move was quite unnecessary, as there was plenty of room in the town for the German wounded, and was simply a bit of spite. One could forgive the Austrians to a certain extent, but in the case of the Germans, with their wonderfully efficient organisation, one felt ill-treatment was deliberately calculated.

The Serbian hospital at Krushevatz was a barracks, which held about 400 men comfortably, but we had to cram in a thousand or more as best we could, three men in two beds, lying all down the corridors. They had to lie in their uniforms, as it was bitterly cold and there were not enough blankets, all our equipment having been seized. We learnt afterwards that at the Prefecture there was, as an officer put it, enough confiscated hospital equipment of all sorts to supply a whole German army corps for a year, yet we were not allowed to use a single thing. The Austrians, who by this time had followed up the Germans, refused to give me a receipt for what they seized, and would not give us any help whatever. We appealed in vain for blankets and other necessaries to save our patients from needless suffering, and the Director's request to be allowed to put some of the Serbian wounded in the empty Prefecture was refused. The Serbian hospital had its own linen, but we were short of drugs, of stores, and everything else.

"We were told all the confiscated stores were sent into Germany. The Austrians complained bitterly that the Germans went ahead and took everything, and that they did not confine their depredations to enemy country. They commandeered in Austria too. 'And that,' exclaimed one indignant officer, 'is what they call *Kultur!*'

"The greatest difficulty of all, in the hospital, was to keep the place clean. The Director asked us to take over the sanitary department, which we did, and splendid work, of a most arduous and disagreeable kind, was done by Miss Wardle, Miss Maddan, and Miss Whiting, who acted as scavengers. There was only one bath in the place, but we made another, in the magazine, and also an arrangement for disinfecting clothes, blankets, &c., regularly. Mrs. Haverfield took over the laundry, with the assistance of Miss Gregory and Miss Lees, and we also had a downstairs room of our own for dressings and operations.

"By the middle of January the press of wounded became less, but we still had a party of 500 to 2,000 prisoners in the hospital grounds. Here they were without any shelter at all against the terrible cold, and we used to see them, in miserable rags, crouching round their camp fires in a blizzard, trying to get warm. For food, they had only coffee in the morning, half a loaf, and, in the evening, bean soup. From the hospital grounds they were drafted on into concentration camps, the badly wounded being left behind with us.

"By February 9th we had only ninety or a hundred men, and these were taken into an Austrian hospital, while we were told that we were to be sent away. Mrs. Haverfield and I went down to see the Austrian general in command and ask if this was really so. We saw a young aide-de-camp, who told us this was quite true, and replied in answer to our question as to what was to become of our wounded, that it was no business of ours.

"We suggested that when one had tended men for weeks their fate did seem to concern us most particularly; but the officer again replied that it was not our business; we must leave it to them. 'We are not barbarians,' he added. No such suggestion had been hinted at by us, but since he put on the cap himself we did not deny that it fitted.

"Our own treatment was civil enough, and we were adequately fed. We were allowed to go out, with a pass, within certain hours, and were not interfered with. Nor did we hear of any atrocities to the civil population such as were committed in Belgium. But the treatment of the Serbian wounded and prisoners fairly made our blood boil.

"For the Serbians I have a tremendous admiration. We saw the Serbian army all the summer, and they were such a happy, hopeful set of men. It was a most pitiful change to see them retiring absolutely broken and starving. But they must have made a most magnificent retreat to get so large a portion of their army away to Corfu.

"The Serbians are very generous, too. We did not hear any complaints that the English had let them down. Only one woman we came across expressed criticism, most never said a word. They have the most touching faith in our honour, and express confidence that we shall redeem our receipts, as we did after the South African War, while they have no hope of the Austrians redeeming theirs.

"As to the Germans, let no one imagine they are growing tired of the war. What we saw was a victorious and confident army, well-equipped and well-fed and very efficient—a first-rate army. The Austrians are not nearly so well equipped, and a large proportion of their army are mere lads. But the Austrians, too, are full of confidence. There is no love lost between the Germans and Austrians; but on our way back through Austria we saw no signs of a wish to end the war."

"On February 11th," concluded Dr. Inglis, "they packed us off to Belgrade, in two horse trucks and a third-class carriage, together with some members of another Unit—a party of forty-three altogether. At Belgrade we slept on the floor of the waiting-room, in which our guard was also posted. Next day we went on to Vienna, where we saw the Secretary of the American Embassy, and the next stage was Bludenz, where we were delayed for eight days, as they said the frontier was not open.

At Zurich we at last felt that we were really free again. and I don't think, till then, we ever realised how uncomfortable it is to be prisoners."

Notes and News.

Alberta and Women's Suffrage.

At the opening of the Alberta Legislature, among the Premier's forecasts for the session are Bills providing for Women's Suffrage, for the further Prosecution of the War, and for the Prohibition of Intoxicating Liquors.

18 Women Inspectors to 4,000,000 Workers.

The recommendation of the Retrenchment Committee, that as vacancies among the staff of factory inspectors occur they should not be filled, is surely a foolish suggestion. There may be many officials in our Government departments whom we could spare, but they are not to be found among our factory inspectors. Even in normal times they were too few for their task: it was impossible that eighteen women should cope with four million workers, and we have long pressed for an increase, at any rate, in the female staff. Now, more than ever, that increase is needed. Women are entering the industrial world by the thousand. Old rules and regulations, old conditions and standards and barriers are falling away, and now, if ever, competent women inspectors are needed. An abuse can be so much more easily prevented than remedied, and the importance of a right start for women workers cannot be over-estimated.

All this is so obvious that it is strange that it should have escaped the attention of the Retrenchment Committee. We can only hope that Parliament will show more foresight than to adopt this particular recommendation.

Women Munition Workers.

On February 24th the Minister of Munitions made two orders giving statutory effect to recommendations already issued by the Minister in documents known as Circulars L 2 and L 3. The regulation as to the minimum wages of women and semi-skilled and unskilled men employed on certain classes of munition work hitherto done by men, are now binding not only in Government factories but in controlled establishments.

The important question of the wages of women employed upon "women's work" still remains to be settled.

Women on the Land.

In the Circular Letter addressed by the Board of Agriculture to the War Agricultural Committees it is pointed out that the shortage of labour on the land this spring and summer will be more severely felt than last year. The local committees are asked to make it clear to farmers that this shortage can best be made good by enlisting the aid of women.

The services of all classes of women will be needed. Some, including labourers' wives in rural districts, may be only able

to give part time; many others will require training or, at any rate, preliminary supervision. Lord Selborne reports that the Board of Trade are increasing the number of their women organisers, and he hopes that the War Agricultural Committees will work in constant co-operation with these officers. But to reach all classes of women there must be established in every county a Woman's Farm Labour Committee, carrying on the campaign with its own staff and machinery, but in close touch with the local War Agricultural Committee.

Brought to a Standstill.

At the Preston Tribunal, on February 28th, temporary exemption was asked, reports *The Manchester Guardian*, for four men-piecers. It was practically impossible, said the representative of the cotton firm, to get men from outside to replace them, and they would have to stop the machinery. The members of the local Spinners' Association objected to the principle of women piecers, and would not allow them in the mills, though they are being employed in other places, notably in Oldham. The firm had tried to keep the machines going with lads, but it was a failure. Two of the men were put back to April 1st, and two to May 1st.

Shortage of Surface Workers.

"Owing to the shortage of labour in the Warwickshire coalfield," states the *Daily Telegraph*, "women are being given a trial at surface work, while many women are being employed as colliery clerks. In the Durham mining district, however, the miners will not accept the employers' suggestion for female labour, and the men's leaders have put forward a proposal to attempt to meet the shortage by calling up all the old men who are on the permanent relief fund and are willing and capable of doing this class of work."

The Women will not fail us.

Writing in the *Canadian News*, of February 3rd, on "Women and the War," Mr. A. M. de Beck says that "the particular genius of women" should be used in every way possible, and gives, as an example, the wastage that might have been avoided in the provision department of the Army by appointing women to superintend the food distribution and checking in camp. "Many women," he says, "have a perfect gift of economy, organisation, and common sense, and if we are to defeat Germany we shall require to exercise these three qualities to the very uttermost.

"That is why I would so gladly see women employed at some of our great Government departments, and in high places, too. They have a hundred times the common sense and *savoir faire* that is possessed by those old fossils of clerks, some of whom actually took up their posts forty and fifty years ago. If the war has effected no other good thing it has certainly helped not only women to find their souls and themselves, but it has enabled us men to realise of what great things women are capable. The womanhood of Britain and the Empire, the womanhood of each one of our Allies has come magnificently through the ordeal, and it is destined to do far greater things yet before it is all over. We shall have to strain every nerve to keep our end up, and we require the aid of women just as much and as surely as they require ours. Come what may, the women will not fail us!"

Women War-Workers on the Rand.

"In connection with recruiting," says the *Woman's Outlook*, a very important development has proved highly successful on the Rand, under the direction of Mrs. Ramsay. A Women's War Workers' Bureau was quickly and effectively organised, with the result that hundreds of women, prepared to take the place of fighting men, were registered, and through the agency of the bureau have been appointed to all kinds of positions, as munition workers, bank clerks, and in various spheres hitherto closed to women.

"In connection with this, a mass meeting of women was held at Johannesburg, and was highly successful. The speakers were all women, and carried their audience to a pitch of enthusiasm in the matter of such a principle as equal pay for equal work, and others equally essential to the well-being of women and men as co-workers in the labour market."

Our Special Munition-Workers' Number.

We hope to issue an illustrated number on March 17th, containing several interesting articles written from various points of view. Will readers who require extra copies kindly order them as early as possible before the edition is exhausted?

Organised Nurses Demand State Registration.

A general meeting of the National Council of Trained Nurses met, on February 12th, to consider the Circular Letter sent by the Hon. Arthur Stanley, M.P., Chairman of the Joint War Committee, to the Chairman of Committees of Hospitals proposing to establish a college of nursing on a voluntary basis, governed by a Council of Management nominated by the chairmen and governors of leading hospitals, the principals of nurses' training schools, medical lecturers, and other persons interested in the education of women. No provision is made in the scheme for the representation of the nursing profession itself by elected members, and, as Mrs. Bedford Fenwick explained in her presidential address, "*not one of the national groups of trained nurses who for years had been honorably associated together for the effective organisation of trained nursing by Act of Parliament, and who, together with progressive medical men, had drafted the Nurses' Registration Bill, was communicated with.*"

Mrs. Bedford Fenwick continued:—

"As fate would have it, I received a copy of Mr. Stanley's Circular Letter, which we are here to consider to-day, as a press woman, as editor of *The British Journal of Nursing*, not either as the former Matron of St. Bartholomew's Hospital, or as President of this influential National Council of Trained Nurses. What are known as the vertebrate and articulate groups of nurses, who have formed strong conscientious convictions concerning their own professional organisation, who have spent years in working devotedly to attain legal status, who have drudged and paid for propaganda, and have converted the obtuse electorate of this deliberate nation, who have by their determination made State Registration of Nurses a live and national question, who have seen their Bill pass the Lords, and by a majority of 228 votes obtained a contested first reading in the House of Commons, who have seen the Legislatures of colony after colony pass Registration Bills for their nurses, who have seen forty-two States in the American Union deal justly with this question in fourteen years, and, low be it spoken, have even seen the German Reichstag, the Imperial Diet of the Hun, give its nurses legal status!—these nurses have received no intimation whatever from the promoters of the voluntary Nursing College scheme, that such an organisation was contemplated!"

. . . . . .

"Upon the request, primarily, of the Matrons' Council, this meeting has been convened, so that, although we have not been invited to do so, the organised societies of certificated matrons and nurses may consider the Circular Letter, and take such action as seems desirable, and resolutions will be put forward for your consideration. . . . The crux of the question is, Who is going to govern the Nursing Profession? In the College scheme as in the Nurses' Bill, a governing body is defined. In my right hand I hold the Nurses' Registration Bill; you know its underlying principles. First and foremost, an *elected* Governing Body, representing primarily the interests of the class to be governed, it provides for a central independent examination, one portal to the legitimate practice of Nursing, for legal status, registration—and some degree of economic protection—all great levers of professional liberty.

"In my left hand I hold the Circular Letter, defining the scheme for the Voluntary Nursing College, which provides for a *nominated* Governing Body by employers of nurses, presumably a variety of portals to the practice of Nursing, to be defined by lay opinion, no independent central examination, no legal status, no State protection. In fact, the proposed Council of Management deprives the individual nurse of professional enfranchisement and all power of self-government, and sets in motion the wheels of privilege, whereby you may be ground exceeding small."

A resolution was proposed by Miss Musson, R.R.C., President of the General Hospital, Birmingham, Nurses' League, demanding the State registration of nurses by an elected body on which the registered nurses themselves have direct and sufficient representation.

"We are tired," said Miss Musson, "beyond measure, of lay interference and mismanagement, and we want no nominated or self-elected body put in a position of supreme authority. The medical and other professions mentioned in Mr. Stanley's letter are governed by their own members, elected by the vote of the members concerned. That is the principle behind the State Registration of Nurses Bill, which has repeatedly been introduced into the House of Commons and passed without a division in the House of Lords."

In seconding the resolution, Miss M. Heather-Bigg, President of the Matrons' Council of Great Britain and Ireland, demanded that nurses should have the same advantages as medical students.

"Every hospital with a medical school has to give the student adequate instruction to qualify him to pass the examination entitling him to be registered as a medical practitioner.

"The Lady Superintendents, Matrons, Sisters, and trained nurses of many of our well-recognised training schools for nurses, both in Lond. and the provinces, are clamouring for the same meed of justice for those women they are educating to become 'trained nurses.' We need now, more than ever, to offer vigorous opposition to the proposed scheme of a Voluntary College of Nursing; we refuse to content ourselves with any other recognition of our status than that of State Registration.

"We must decline absolutely to have thrust upon us women who, although they have organised War Hospitals and tended the sick during

this war period, are yet below the standard of training demanded of a really trained nurse. This standard calls for not less than three or four years of continuous work in the wards of a general hospital."

The resolution was carried unanimously. That there is a really keen interest in this question among the nursing profession was shown by the large attendances of members, not only from London but from the provinces, at a time when nurses are so fully occupied and so many are working abroad.

Women's War Interests.

WORK OF THE MANCHESTER AND DISTRICT COMMITTEE.

We have been asked to publish, in The Common Cause, accounts of the work of Women's Interests Committees, for the benefit of Societies which are wishing to promote such committees in their own districts. The following account of the work of the Manchester Committee is taken from their pamphlet, recently issued, on "Women in the Labour Market During the War."*

The Committee was formed in May, 1915, chiefly with a view to investigating and making public the conditions of women employed in munition factories, but as new occupations were opened to women as a direct result of the war, the scope of the Committee was extended. Its work has chiefly fallen into three branches: (1) Investigation; (2) the holding of conferences and consultations; and (3) the making of direct representations to Government departments and local committees.

Investigation.

A thorough investigation was made into the conditions of women's war work in the Manchester district. Inquiry forms were sent to secretaries of trade unions and other labour organisations, while information was secured from employers by correspondence and personal interviews. In this way reports were obtained from a large number of firms engaged in munition work. A careful collection of Press cuttings was started at the outset, and has been continued ever since.

Conferences.

The first conference was held on June 12th, and the following proposals were put forward by the Women's Interests Committee as a suggested basis for a publicity campaign:—

Wages.—That a guaranteed minimum of £1 per week of forty-eight hours should be paid to every adult woman worker (over eighteen years) employed on munitions. On piecework the rates should be such as to give a guaranteed minimum of £1 per week.

All women employed on night work or overtime should be paid at the rate of time and a quarter.

Hours.—That a three-shift system of eight hours is preferable to continuous overtime for women. No woman should be employed on night work for more than two weeks out of six.

Conditions.—That ample canteen provision should be provided, and, where night work is in operation, this should be obligatory.

At the second Conference, held on October 23rd, representatives of various branches of the Amalgamated Society of Engineers and of the Cotton Operatives Association were present, and the question of the transference of women from textile to munition factories was considered.

The third Conference, on December 18th, was summoned to make more widely known the existing conditions of women's labour on munition work, and to arrange joint action in securing "a minimum wage of £1 per week of forty-eight hours for all women engaged in the manufacture of war material, and the extension of the definition of 'munition workers' to cover all persons employed in the production of war material." Representatives were present from twelve trade and labour councils, thirty trade unions, five branches of the I.L.P., nine branches of the Women's Labour League, eleven branches of the Women's Co-operative Guilds, four Suffrage societies, and a number of other women's organisations, the Manchester and District Labour Party, and the Rochdale Labour Party. These unanimously endorsed the policy of the Women's War Interests Committee, and promised full support.

In August, a national conference of the united metal trades was held in York, when the proposals of the Manchester Women's War Interests Committee were adopted as representing the minimum conditions under which the men trade unionists ought to sanction the entrance of women's labour into the production of munitions. This was an event of great importance. It was the first occasion on which a representative group of men trade unionists had shown signs of recognising the serious menace to their own position by allowing women in considerable numbers to undertake work usually done by themselves, and at wages far below their own standard.

Deputations.

As a result, a joint deputation from the metal trades, the National Federation of Women Workers, and the Manchester Women's War Interests Committee met Dr. Addison and Mr. Beveridge, as representing the Ministry of Munitions, and placed before them the proposals adopted at the York Conference. Dr. Addison agreed that women should not be under-paid, and that the danger of depressing men's wages should be carefully guarded against.

On December 23rd Dr. Addison met a further deputation, at which he agreed that it was important to have women properly represented on committees which controlled the working conditions, and also that he was prepared to consider the appointment of women to such committees, "more especially to wage tribunals, on the ground of their personal knowledge of women's wages and conditions of labour."

The persistent presentation of the Committee's proposals, concludes the Report, has certainly influenced the Government's recommendations to employers in controlled establishments, and the constant presentation of facts showing that the recommendations as to wages are being ignored, has assisted in inducing the Government to take power in the amended Munitions Bill to regulate wages and conditions of labour for women in controlled establishments, and the clear case which has been made out for more direct representation of the women workers in the Manchester area has led the Ministry of Munitions to consider this demand favourably.

* Copies, 1d., from Women's War Interests Committee, Room 26, 1, Princess Street, Manchester.

National Health.

The Annual Meeting of the Association for Moral and Social Hygiene.

At the annual meeting of the Asscition for Moral and Social Hygiene,* held at Caxton Hall last Monday, the Rev. J. Scott-Lidgett, from the chair, announced that the Report of the Royal Commission on Venereal Diseases would shortly be issued, and that on all the main questions the Commission were unanimous. The Association might congratulate itself that no proposal would be made in the Report which could, directly or indirectly, support any revival of what might even remotely be considered legislation on the lines of the Contagious Diseases Act. Nor was there any proposal whatever that put women in an inferior position to men, either in the principles laid down or the treatment suggested. There would be put before the country a very large policy for dealing with these questions. But the proposals made must not be allowed to become a dead letter or to be postponed.

Dr. Helen Wilson explained the programme of the Association. One of its objects was to eradicate prostitution. They did not suppose that sexual vice would be destroyed, but that was not quite the same thing as prostitution. It was vice as an institution, recognised and regarded as a necessity, that the Association was really out against. They must go to the root of the matter; so far the efforts of those in authority had been confined to getting rid of some of the more obvious evils, but

* British Branch of the International Abolitionist Federation, with which is incorporated the Ladies' Association for the Abolition of the State Regulation of Vice, and for the Promotion of Social Purity.

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the roots had never been touched. These were selfishness and self-indulgence; inertia of public opinion, and especially of officialism; ignorance, and superstition, which must be dispelled by ordered and reasoned knowledge, working side by side with conscience and principle. There was need for social workers all over the country, who would not wait for Parliament to make new laws, but would use the powers they had.

Miss Maude Royden pointed out that every great war increased the incidence of venereal disease, and it was necessary to be prepared for a desire for panic legislation. It was the one consideration for those who were in charge of our great camps to see that their men got to the front physically fit; they were apt to devise, therefore, those methods which dealt with the effect rather than those which went to the root and dealt with the cause. They had no concern with what the future was going to bring, but only with the present. There were two ways of meeting this difficulty: the way of hope, and the way of fear. The way of fear was that of repression and punishment, and to many people this seemed the more simple and heroic; but it really means this—treating the soldier as society has always treated the prostitute, as an institution we want to use, not as a human being. It was an insult to the soldier to treat him only as a machine to go out and fight. He had a right to be treated, not as a child or an animal, but as a human being. A very great doctor once said that a doctor who treats a man as though he were simply a body without a soul, had mistaken his vocation; he ought to have been a veterinary surgeon. It was also true of a prostitute, that she was not a body without a soul. Constructive ways of meeting the problem must be tried, and it was very important to supply the human need for companionship under wholesome conditions.

Mr. John Cowan, who was instrumental in closing the segregated quarter in Colombo, gave an account of the state of affairs that existed in some of our Crown Colonies where the State regulation of vice still exists, and his own methods of work. In Rangoon, last year, just before a large body of Territorials was expected, he issued a pamphlet, pointing out the iniquity of exposing these men to the dangers of the tolerated area. The pamphlet was confiscated by the officials, but within a few days of its issue, before the Territorials arrived, an order was issued making this area out of bounds for all soldiers, and he believed that none of the Territorials went there.

Correspondence.

THE PHYSICAL FORCE ARGUMENT.

Madam,—Mrs. Swanwick has asked for some explanation of my accusation against Miss Marshall of "complete surrender to our old enemy the physical force argument." The explanation is as follows:—

Miss Marshall argues that the future of women in politics depends upon the discrediting of militarism and the substitution of right for might. To quote Miss Marshall's own words: "In a State where the social order is based on the power to exercise force women must always go to the wall, just as in a community of nations in which force is the deciding factor in international differences the smaller nations must always go to the wall."

Now, it is in this unconditional acceptance of Mrs. Swanwick's minor premise that I find Miss Marshall's surrender to the enemy. I believe that even though an armed peace and a temporarily quiescent militarism be the outcome of this war, even though physical force continue to be the final arbiter between nation and nation, even though the strength of Governments continue to be measured by the physical force of compulsion and endurance which they can command—still the woman's claim holds good, because her physical force is every bit as vital to the fighting strength of the nation in arms as the physical force of the sons whom she brings into the world. And the fact that her's is the physical force of production, of endurance, and of creation, does not make it any the less physical force.

But, after all, a surrender to the physical force argument is not a very serious surrender, for however much we may admit the logic of our claim to a place in the sun under the domination of force and militarism, that claim remains an empty one, and such a place seems hardly worth the having. Certainly, it in no way satisfies the ideal which for most of us lies behind the Women's Movement.

Mary Stocks.

THE LIBERTIES OF THE PEOPLE.

Madam,—The "Thought for the Week" in your last issue most certainly provides matter for furious thinking—"It has long been a grave question whether any Government not too strong for the liberties of its people can be strong enough to maintain its existence in great emergencies."

May I add to your American quotation an English thought? It has long been our boast that no Government that dares to tamper with the liberties of *this* people can ever be "strong enough to maintain its existence." And of this there is *no* question, "grave" or otherwise. The fact that the present Government is, in the opinion of many of your readers, tampering with the liberties of this people makes me regret that a purely Suffragist organ should raise so disruptive a point. We are willing to combine, for the sake of Suffrage, with people who on other counts hold the most different opinions; but let our love of tyranny or Socialism go to the *Times* or the *Labour Leader*, and leave The Common Cause neutral ground.

Oliver Strachey.

[We are too often assured that Democracy is on its trial to miss the real point of President Lincoln's warning, which it is well, and ever necessary, we think, to ponder. The defence of our liberties depends upon our own will, our will to unite, to give, and to give up; for the strength of a democratic Government lies in the will of the people behind it; and it is for us to see that a free people can "maintain its existence in great emergencies." If Abraham Lincoln's remark should "furiously set us to think," of our individual responsibility, and of avoiding the reefs on which democratic communities have come to grief, it will not have been quoted in vain.—Ed., C.C.]

GIVING A LEAD.

Madam,—May I plead the cause of Kipps—the female Kipps, that is—in order that someone may give her a lead? At this moment, of course, girls are being engaged as shop assistants in every kind of store; most of them are, unfortunately, absolutely ignorant of the conditions of the labour world, and therefore quite unfitted to make good terms for themselves and so to protect those whose places they take. This, of course, is true of all the trades now opening to women, but it is especially true of an occupation which frequently attracts the class that above all others prides itself on its gentility, a gentility that makes it ignorant of many facts well known to the facory hand. I would therefore beg all those who work in girls' clubs, or who in any way come in contact with young shop assistants, to use their influence to get them to join a trade union, preferably perhaps the Union of Shop Assistants, Warehousemen, and Clerks, which admits men and women on equal terms. Anyone over sixteen years of age employed in either a wholesale or retail trade is eligible. Between the ages of sixteen and eighteen the weekly subscription for full benefit is threepence, between eighteen and thirty fourpence. Apart from the protection, the mere fact of mutual support is an education in all that is meant by the "larger trade unionism." (The address of this union to which I refer is Dilke House, Malet Street, W.C.)

May I also cordially endorse Miss M. E. Burns's letter on the need there is for the National Union branches to wake up to the importance of studying international questions? Foreign policy has been neglected in England even by political people. This can no longer continue. And if we women are to be regarded as potential voters we must learn to think, not in terms of Empire only, but in terms of Europe. But the training for this is a long job: we ought to set to it at once. As a fact, the zeal of our philanthropy has eaten us up, and that is a very old story in the history of woman. But is it to last for ever? Are we always to go on turning our back on things of the mind in order that we may serve tables? Just as social questions were forced on us women by a knocking at the very doors of our lives, so now are international ones. But how long are we to take in awaking to the fact that we are required to do something more for humanity than merely to save lives and money—that the reckless policy of one half of the race may pour out both like water spilt upon the ground?

M. P. Willcocks.

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Half the proceeds of the lecture will be given to Mrs. St. Clair Stobart for Hospital Material for Serbia, which is urgently needed.

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All Business Communications *to be addressed to The Manager,* The Common Cause, *14, Great Smith St., Westminster, S.W., and all* Advertisements *must reach the Office not later than first post on Wednesday. Advertisement representative, S. R. Le Mare.*

The N.U.W.S.S. is an association of over 52,000 men and women who have banded themselves together, under the leadership of Mrs. Henry Fawcett, for the purpose of obtaining the Parliamentary vote for women on the same terms as it is or may be granted to men. At this great national crisis, however, they have for the time suspended their ordinary political activities, in order to put themselves and their Union at the service of those who are organising the relief of distress caused by the war.

Economising at the Expense of Women.

"All the world over the women go short."

The recommendation of the Committee of Retrenchment in the Public Expenditure to reduce the expenditure on the inspection of factories and mines during the war by refraining from filling vacancies as they occur, is a little difficult to reconcile with the view officially (and, in our opinion, quite rightly) held, that "the present staff is fully required for the execution of the duties imposed upon it." It is quite possible to go further and to say that the present staff is not adequate in numbers to its onerous duties; and, instead of recommending (Section IV. 6) that "inspection should be curtailed temporarily as far as possible," it is highly desirable that it should be increased.

The work is done at high pressure, and too often in improvised factory buildings; while there is every inducement to the employer to cut down outlay on temporary accommodation, and the need of inspection in the workers' interests was never so imperative. It is to be hoped, moreover, now that the Government seems prepared to give some serious attention to economy, that the economies effected are not to be made wherever possible in the case of women. We know that the Government offices, even before the war, were among the worst sinners in this respect. Since the war, conditions in some departments have become so anomalous that while women of special attainments, including a degree, were at one time offered work at fifteen shillings per week, a boy of seventeen, whose time was largely spent in applying a feather-duster to the backs of books, was being paid twenty-seven shillings! Youths are, no doubt, difficult to find, as everybody knows who requires an errand-boy; but is it necessary to secure this rarity for dusting a library? Again, Mr. Pease finds it impracticable to provide for the education of girl-messengers employed by the Post Office (though the boy telegraph messengers have special continuation classes), "because there is a difficulty in sending the girls to classes at the present time, when the streets are very darkened." There is, however, apparently no difficulty in sending the girls about the darkened streets on business of the Post Office or of other departments. Girls have been employed all through the winter nominally until six o'clock, but in reality till much later, and certainly for some time after darkness set in. Parents have been known to withdraw their daughter from the service because they objected to her returning home after eight o'clock in the evening. But Mr. Pease knows that economy must begin somewhere, and starts with the girl-messengers' education.

Other employers will be quick to take their cue from the Government. An instance of this kind has come to our knowledge only this week. A large "controlled" engineering works decided to transfer a number of skilled men, who had been earning over £4 a week piece-work, to another department and replace them on the former job by women. The firm declined to take on trained women, saying that it had been intimated to them that they must pay much lower wages, and as a factory in the neighbourhood was closing down owing to the war, they had a supply of local untrained labour, and the women would be thankful to come, on time-work, at less than a pound a week. Who is to blame for this? The very high wages earned by men have reacted on the wages paid to women; and the economy is made at their expense. Is it to the interest of the nation to underpay and under-feed its women-workers, and to see that high expenditure in other departments is made up for by compelling the women to go short?

Scholarships for Pioneers.

"Military authorities tell us that the greatest difficulty of all is to train new officers for new armies: and so it is with industry. It is in the scientific experts, and the men trained in scientific research, in the *captains* of industry that we are most lacking; without these there can be no success," writes a well-known expert in the *Daily Telegraph*. And, again. "Another important factor in this question is that of scholarships. Our system of scholarships has grown up round classical education . . . of scholarships for industrial education there are comparatively few." Of these, fewer still are open to women, and the larger number of them are still devoted to the training of the rank-and-file. But for the special technical training for what we have called the higher commands of

COMMERCIAL CHEMISTRY

no scholarships exist, we believe, for women who have already taken a degree. It is impossible to over-rate the importance of having trained technical chemists in sufficient numbers. The future of many of our industries will depend upon having the requisite amount of brain-power ready to apply to their special problems.

At this moment the way is opening for

PIONEER WORK IN A TWOFOLD SENSE.

Never before has the imperative necessity for scientific knowledge been so clearly and publicly recognised in industrial and commercial quarters. And never before has there been so marked a disposition to open up posts to qualified women. The demand for women as "hands" is great, but there will now be a demand for women as "heads" of various branches of industry, if properly-trained women are ready to "step in" and take them.

To be ready for this pioneer work we are appealing to our readers for the sum of one hundred pounds to found

TWO "COMMON CAUSE" SCHOLARSHIPS,

so as to give two qualified women science-students the necessary further special training of *one year*. One hundred pounds would provide two scholarships of fifty pounds each, which would cover all the expenses of lecture and laboratory fees, books, and equipment. Some donations have already been promised. Will not our readers who have taken up and worked at the problems of national economy with such keen and sustained interest, do their best for a scheme through which, it is hoped, women will add to the nation's resources?

If two hundred of our readers will only subscribe ten shillings each the scheme can be carried out.

Cheques and postal orders (which should be crossed) should be made payable to the Hon. Treasurer, "Common Cause" Scholarship Fund, and addressed to the Hon. Treasurer, The Common Cause Office, 14, Great Smith Street, S.W.

Economy in France and England.

By Mme. M. G. Rudler, Présidente du Club Française de l'Université de Londres.

There is a story told by Taine how some English King was paying a visit to a nobleman. The lord in question had a table covered with costly food set out in the great hall; then he bade them remove the table, fling away all the profusion of victuals, and bring in another equally loaded with expensive and succulent viands.

Such a piece of extravagance is not quite in the modern manner; and yet, can we say that the English people preserves no trace of this ostentatious prodigality? The immense riches of England, the abundance of produce brought to her shores from all parts of the world, and the reckless way in which it is used, come as a surprise to every new arrival on English soil. The surprise grows with the knowledge of English life.

In times of peace this all-pervading plenty gives an impression of luxury, of greatness, of comfort which certainly has its poetic aspect; but in war-time to prolong such a state of things would be to ruin the country. The English have realised this at last, and mistresses of households are now facing the necessity for cutting down their whole scheme of living.

But how to set about this?

I have been able, after repeated comparisons of English and French ways of living, to see plainly that for an English household the economic problem is a most difficult one. The very word economy implies such a change of habits, and of the whole domestic attitude of mind, that it amounts to a revolution. So I, as a Frenchwoman, can only indicate differences in our household systems, and suggest to English readers a few practical modifications without asserting that they are applicable.

The House.

First of all, let us compare the English house, with its basement and numerous large rooms (which often are set far apart) with our own houses where all the rooms, besides being smaller, are compactly arranged and all close together. An English kitchen, with its scullery, pantry, larder, &c., even where there is no basement, is a good way from the dining-room. The result is a much greater complication of serving and cleaning arrangements. Where one servant would suffice in France two are absolutely necessary in England: one to prepare the meals, the other to carry them to table; one to answer the bell to tradesmen below-stairs, and another to open the door upstairs to visitors; one to keep the basement clean, the other to carry up coals and do the housemaid's work above.

Conclusion: The kitchen arrangements ought to be more compact and much nearer to the dining-room.

The British kitchen-range is a Moloch, a devouring monster. The space for the fire is very large, for it must serve not only to cook food but to heat the water supplied through long lengths of pipes to washhand-basins and bathrooms at the uttermost ends of the huge house. In France, the kitchen-stove is meant to do nothing but cook the food—incidentally, it warms the kitchen, but the kitchen is usually small. Stoves and ranges which heat the boiler for the bath were soon given up, for people generally prefer a special stove in the bathroom, which can be heated and put out at will, with the advantage that in summer-time the kitchen-fire need never be lit at all, and gas can be used instead. The stove, too, is usually small and burns very little coal.

Conclusion: Put a medium-sized or small stove in a medium-sized or small kitchen, and keep a separate special heater for the hot-water supply, so as to burn coal only when necessary.

The dining-room in a well-planned house should communicate with the drawing-room by folding-doors. If these are left open one good fire should be enough, in ordinary weather, to warm the rooms. With this arrangement supervision is very much easier; it simplifies the grouping of guests at dinner or tea-parties, and makes less work for the servants. Generally speaking, the tendency of French architects is to make all the reception-rooms communicating with each other, as far as possible, by means of folding-doors. The English way, on the other hand, is to make it impossible to pass from one room into another.

The average English window, again, makes another complication in the housework. Windows in France are all of the casement type, and, opening *inwards*, are, in consequence, easily cleaned by the servants. Sash-windows must be cleaned by the professional window-cleaners. These gentry, ill-trained for their business, bring in mud from the streets and deposit it freely on the carpets and the window-sills. They drop dirty water on the floor, and leave dirty finger-marks on the paint. It usually takes longer to clean up after their departure than to clean the windows in the first instance.

One last point: The flat, or "apartment" system is much more general in French than in English cities, and houses are planned to reduce coming and going on the part of the servants as much as possible.

Servants.

It is a common saying that two servants are needed in England for one in France. We have just seen that their work can be made easier by the arrangement of the house. In England, where more are wanted, they are harder to find, and as they are harder to find they expect very much more. People make all kinds of sacrifices to keep their servants; they are indulged beyond measure, and are exceedingly independent. So the English servant nowadays is in quite the wrong mood. Servants confuse wealth with squandering, and their notion of

the dignity of the family they serve only takes the form of a superb indifference to all that is done and spent in the house. In their eyes any economy is a sign of poverty—an idea which is sedulously fostered by the tradespeople—and it will be very difficult to break them of these habits.

Their ways, besides, are very different from French ways. They drink tea, for instance, five or six times a day; a meal at nine o'clock, another at one, at five, and at eight. Our servants have two meals in all (not including a light breakfast), which cuts up the time less and makes it possible to do a great deal more. Besides, in France, they are still willing to be supervised and directed, and to work in the afternoons.

Conclusion: No economy is possible until the number of servants has been reduced to a *minimum*, and the work of those that remain is firmly and regularly supervised.

All waste should be checked. Visit kitchen and larder fairly frequently, have the store-room key in your own keeping, and only give out small quantities at a time. Insist that weights and measures should always be used in cookery (Mrs. Beeton gives weights and approximate prices in her book). Another point: Assure yourself that the cook learns to adopt her quantities to the number of persons, and has not odd scraps of meat, vegetables, pudding, and bread left over to be thrown into the dust-bin. Books have been written on the art of doing up odd bits of food. See that the cook does not fling handfuls of flour on the pastry board every time a little bit of pastry is made, nor turn her stock of raisins or vanilla, or crystallised fruits into a sticky mess in the course of making a single pudding; nor, again, after making for four people a dish large enough for six or eight, that she does not leave the remains to moulder on the shelf. Finally, her instinctive tendency to waste coal-gas and electricity wholesale at all hours must be restrained. But supervision is never any good except where there are few servants.

(*To be continued.*)

NATIONAL WASTE IN ALCOHOLIC LIQUORS.

In The Common Cause of February 18th there appeared a letter giving expression to a conviction which surely must have been growing for months in the minds of many readers, *viz.*, that to discuss ways and means of effecting national economy and yet to ignore the largest source of national waste was, to put it mildly, an exhibition of insincerity, if not of moral cowardice.

Contrast the following figures. The National Debt will shortly reach 2,300 millions. It has been publicly asserted that this money will not come back in the lifetime of our children or our grandchildren. Yet the drink bill of only fifteen years (1900-14) exceeded 2,500 millions. If 800 millions of this went into the Treasury the fact remains that at least 1,500 millions came from the pockets of the working-classes.

The Board of Trade here and that of Canada (independently), some years ago, established the fact that in the production of alcoholic liquors 7 per cent. of the cost was paid in wages; in cotton goods, 27 per cent.; in coal, 57 per cent. On this basis it follows that to produce the above 2,500 millions-worth of liquor, some 175 millions went in wages. Had cotton goods been produced to the same value, the wages paid would have reached 675 millions. Had it been coal, 1,425 millions.

Now, 90 per cent. of the cases of cruelty to children are associated with drink, and the avoidable sufferings of children are largely due to lack of clothing and warmth. If we could divert the money from drink to clothing and firing, not only would there ensue a greatly increased efficiency among the growing population, but the loss to the Treasury of 800 millions in fifteen years would be more than balanced by the resulting prosperity—to say nothing of the indirect saving on the present cost of repressing crime and alleviating sickness. "Gentlemen," said Mr. Gladstone, who was at least a successful Chancellor of the Exchequer, "do not trouble yourselves about a loss of revenue due to a diminution of drinking." And the present experience of Russia is proving the truth of his assurance. "Men and women," says the writer in the *Nineteenth Century* on "Working Women and Drink," "cannot be reduced to lines and figures unless the manipulator is prepared to neglect moral and spiritual factors, which are essential for the comprehension of human problems." If we are asked how moral and spiritual factors operate in actual social experience, we can quote the case of Kansas—for many years the only State with both Women Suffrage and Prohibition. When Kansas adopted Prohibition it was found that the working classes built and owned in one year as may houses as they had formerly done in three.

D. B. McLaren.

Notes from Headquarters.

The National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies.
President: Mrs Henry Fawcett, LL.D.

Hon. Secretaries:
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A revised list of Societies and Federations will be published in The Common Cause of March 24th. The list is being carefully corrected, and Secretaries are asked to notify the Head Office *at once* of any recent changes of address.

Affiliation Fees.

Will Treasurers and Secretaries of Societies kindly note that if Affiliation Fees—due in January—have not already been paid for 1916, they should be paid without delay?

Council Meeting Collection.

We are very grateful to the delegates for their generous response to the Treasurer's appeal at the Council Meeting. When it is remembered that the collection was taken on the second day of the Council, and that many of the delegates had already left, the result—£14 9s. 3d.—may be considered highly satisfactory.

Perhaps those delegates who could not be present on the second day would like to send a small contribution towards the expenses of a very successful Council Meeting. Any such contributions will be very welcome.

Annual Subscriptions.

One of our Annual Subscribers writes as follows: "I enclose cheque. This is not the time to stop subscriptions if one can manage to continue." I would most earnestly commend this sentence to the attention of all our supporters, both Annual Subscribers and occasional Donors. This is, indeed, not the time to stop subscriptions if we care for our National Union, for the work already done, and for the work, even more important, still remaining to be done.

Contributions to the General Fund.

	£	s.	d.
Already acknowledged since November 1st, 1915	480	2	2
Received from February 19th to 26th, 1916:—			
Subscriptions.			
Mrs. James Ritchie		10	6
Mrs. Napier Sturt	10	0	0
Mrs. H. B. Taylor	1	1	0
Miss K. M. Pearce-Gould ...		10	0
The Hon. Mrs. Spencer Graves		5	0
Mrs. Stanley Johnson		2	0
Mrs. Overton		10	0
Mrs. Samuel	1	1	0
Mrs. G. Cecil Dickson		2	6
Mrs. F. Richardson	1	1	0
Affiliation Fees.			
Dunfermline W.S.S.		19	0
St. Andrews W.S.S.	1	17	6
Middlesbrough W.S.S.	1	6	0
Kingston W.S.S.	1	6	0
Heathfield and District W.S.S.	1	2	6
Reading W.S.S.	2	7	6
Ayr and District W.S.S. ...		12	6
Marple W.S.S.	1	6	6
Barnstaple W.S.S.		11	3
Sidmouth W.S.S. (additional, 1915)		4	3
Sidmouth W.S.S. (1916)	1	3	3
Donations.			
Miss Christian Wickham ...	2	0	0
Mrs. W. Wigram	1	1	0
	£511	2	5

Active Service Fund.

SECOND YEAR.

	£	s.	d.
Already acknowledged since November 1st, 1915	370	18	9
Miss Helen Chadwick	1	0	0
West Riding Federation:—			
Leeds (special donation) ...	14	5	6
Sheffield (special donation)	5	0	0
Federation Funds	5	14	6
Miss Margaret C. Crosfield ...	10	0	0
Miss I. M. Evans (18th monthly)		2	6
Dr. Helen Wilson	5	0	0
Staff and Pupils of the Gloucestershire School of Domestic Science (35th donation, Belgian Relief) ...	5	0	0
Received for Scottish Women's Hospital		10	0
	£417	11	3

Note.—As there was a printer's error in last week's Active Service Fund List—last week's donations corrected are included in this list.

Our Maternity Unit for the Relief of Refugees in Russia.

This week we had hoped to publish some definite statements as to the Gatchina scheme, what we aimed at doing, and the *personnel* required. On February 18th Miss Moberly wrote that the large house found by the railway authorities proved to be too far distant from the barak for small or delicate children, and adds, "It is hard for English people to realise the immense time and trouble that every trifle takes." But now, quite unexpectedly, a telegram has come (February 25th) stating that all refugees are being evacuated from Gatchina, and permission to work there is therefore refused." Whether this move is part of a scheme for distributing the refugees over wider areas with a

view to employing them, we do not know. We are told that Kieff, for instance, has been practically cleared, though there are many refugees in the province.

The abandonment of any project brings its own disappointment, and in this case we seemed to have our hands on the work. There was much that we might have done by remedial exercises, organised occupations, &c., to put these children who, all through these long, dark winter months have been dwelling in inaction, on the way to becoming healthy, normal boys and girls again.

Miss Thurstan will return to England about March 6th, bringing a report on her tour to Kazan, and, probably, new suggestions, but in any case there must be delay.

Cottage Homes for Lost Babies.

On the other hand, the most recent letters (dated January 31st, February 8th and 14th, all of which arrived February 21st and 22nd) bring a new and interesting scheme. Miss Moberly had been in communication with two ladies, one a member of the "National Aid Society"—a permanent body for the whole of Russia—and the other, a member of the Tatiana, or War Relief Committee. These ladies have at heart a scheme for organising the Cottage-Homes system in Russia on the analogy of the English organisations. The need of well-run homes for the hundreds of lost and orphaned babies picked up by ladies working for charitable committees all down the line behind the front is urgent. There are heaps of these lost children, who have been separated from their parents and cannot be identified. Countess Tolstoi had one hundred from Smolensk the other day. At present they can only be put in charge of quite untrained nanas, and the mortality in consequence is appalling. As a foundation and a model it is suggested to start a home on entirely English lines for about thirty of these orphans, with English *personnel* and with the approval and support of the Tatiana Committee. Tsarkoe Selo is proposed as the place, about half an hour from Petrograd, healthy and countrified.

The doctors have been consulted on the scheme, and strongly advise making the equipment and installation of such a home as simple as possible, so that it may be imitated quickly and cheaply elsewhere. Dr. May started a similar home in Manchester, and has definite ideas as to the kind of people wanted to run it, and Dr. Coxon is willing and ready to go over as doctor from here.

With regard to funds, the estimated cost of installation is 3,000 roubles; monthly expenditure, 1,700 roubles, or about £120, which would include everything except salaries of *personnel*. The Tatiana Committee warmly supports the scheme, and will give financial help. It is suggested that they should bear cost of installation, but that we should contribute a proportion of running expenses, in addition to salaries of Unit and fares, in order to safeguard independence of administration and method.

It is not possible to come to a definite decision on this point until we have been able to place this scheme beside other possible projects, on which Miss Thurstan will report.

Help for Toiling Mothers.

It would not only bring to the lost babies of the refugees the advantages of careful feeding, fresh air, and sunshine, but would also bring help to the village children necessarily neglected by their mothers, who are doing the work of men. Thereby we should initiate something both permanent and constructive. Amidst the welter of destruction and the improvisation of hurried temporary measures there is a peculiar value in anything that lays foundations for the future.

The village-home system, could it be introduced, would bring some semblance of family life and care to these tiny ones, the most piteous victims of the scourge of war, who else must almost inevitably perish.

The result of a house-to-house visitation at Luton is to bring about £79 to our funds, a most substantial contribution. We wish that other Societies might be moved to follow suit.

Clothing, &c.—Even though the Gatchina scheme will have to be abandoned, there is not the slightest doubt that clothes prepared for the children there can be distributed to children in other places, whose need is equally great. Therefore, the Equipment Secretary asks that no alteration should be made yet in the clothes being prepared by working parties until Miss Thurstan's return. She has received many nice parcels of wools, pieces of materials, &c., and though she believes that they will give great pleasure to the children, she would rather wait for further similar gifts until future plans are more definite.

[For List of Donations see page 631.]

MIDWIVES AND ANTE-NATAL SUPERVISION.

Madam,—In this crisis of our country's history, the midwife, in common with all other health workers, feels that every effort should be made to improve the health of the mothers of the nation and to lower infant mortality and ante-natal loss of life.

As the friend and chosen attendant of the patient, she enjoys her confidence as no uninvited official can do (and this is especially true of the unmarried mother), and being already one of an organised body of health workers, incorporated under Act of Parliament and trained under a curriculum specially planned to include ante-natal hygiene and the care and feeding of infants, her value should be fully recognised.

Moreover, in order that the duty of ante-natal supervision may be carried out more effectually, the midwife urges her patients to book early, but notification of pregnancy in any form is highly undesirable for two reasons. On the mothers' side, when they realised that their pregnancies were being notified they would carefully conceal their condition even from their midwife, with the result that they would only send for her at the last minute, rendering it impossible for her to advise and guide them during the ante-natal period, besides risking the life of the child at the moment of birth. On the midwife's side it would be a gross breach of professional confidence, the midwife, no less than the doctor, being bound by a code of professional ethics.

Therefore, since the midwife is specially trained for the duty of attending the mother professionally, she asks the health officials to recognise that she is the proper person to answer inquiries as to the health of mother and baby and the home conditions, and to receive instructions and see that they are carried out.

And when the midwife's visits cease, she would willingly use her influence to insure that the baby is handed on to whatever health authority would supervise it up to school age. In this way *continuity of supervision* without *over-lapping, friction, or waste of public funds*, would be secured, and the midwife would no longer be a wasted factor in the health scheme.

The objects that all have at heart are the same, and co-operation is necessary for their attainment. Midwives ask that those who have not had their special advantages of training and experience shall accept their co-operation and that willingness to co-operate shall not come from the side of the midwife only. Again, the public hardly realises that more than 50 per cent. of all the births in England and Wales are attended by midwives, and as their work lies among the poorest classes it is estimated that at least 75 per cent. of working mothers are attended by them. A very large proportion of them are in touch with no other health worker than their midwife, and it is for the benefit of these mothers and these infants that the certified midwives of England and Wales ask to be allowed to share in the endeavour to prevent those conditions that lead to the *ill-health of the mother and the death or disablement of the infant.*

R. P. Fynes-Clinton, Hon. Sec.

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*Glasgow and West of Scotland W.S.S. Joint Committee for S.W.H., per Miss Morrison, Hon. Treas: Messrs. Clark & Simpson (£100), Mrs. W. F. G. Anderson, to name "Sympathy" Bed (£50), Proceeds of Mr. McMillan's Concert, per Mrs. J. T. T. Brown, for 2nd year of "Cambuslang" Bed (£50), Women's Auxiliary, Adelaide Place Baptist Church, per Mrs. Cuthbertson (Serbian Refugees, Corsica) (£43 13s.), Helensburgh Guild of the Scottish Domestic Servants' Friendly Society, to name bed, per Miss Downs (£25), the Vincent Club, to name "Vincent Club" bed, per Miss Janie Allan (£25), the Stewartry of Kirkcudbright Dairy Assoc., per Patrick Gifford, Esq., Solicitor, Castle Douglas (£10), Messrs. G. & J. Weir, Ltd. (£10), Meadowside Employees' Relief Fund, per John Brown, Esq., Sec. (£10), Miss McOnie (£10), Ayr W.S.S., per Miss McCulloch (£8 15s.), D. Colville, Esq., per Miss J. B. Lindsay (£5), S. S. Lamport, Esq. New York, per Messrs Robb & Crosbie (£5), Miss Grimston and Miss Falconer (£4 15s.), Largs Branch B.W.T.A., per Mrs. Morris (£3), Employees of Motherwell Bridge Works (£3), Mrs. H. Martin, Canada (£2 10s.), Victoria Hall Seniors' Branch Glasgow Foundry Boys' Religious Society (£2 7s. 6d.), Motherwill Bridge Co. (£2), Y.M.C.A. Meetings, per Miss Patrick (£1 10s.), Employees of Messrs. Hugh Twaddle & Son (£1 1s.), M. B. (£1), J. L. (£1), Misses Millar, per Miss Biles (£1), Mrs. Murray (Serbia) (£1), Mrs. O. R. Hattrick (£1), Miss E. M. Richards (17s.), Miss Young (15s.), Mrs. Munn (13s.), Miss J. M. Brownlie (10s. 6d.), Miss Isabella Brydon (10s.), H. J., R. B., and R. N. B. (10s.), J. Millar, Esq., per Mrs. Jackson (10s.), Miss M. McFarlane (6s.), Miss M. Morrison (monthly donation) (5s.), Miss McMillan (5s.), Anon., per Miss Patrick (5s.), Miss Gordon (2s.)	385	0	0
Miss A. I. Berwick	2	2	0
*Per Mrs. Todd, Hon. Treas., Farington Lodge, Preston W.S.S.: W. H. Slater, Esq. (10s. 6d.), John Sharp, Esq., Collected at Gold Thread Works (£11 5s. 4d.), Messrs. Atherton Bros. Hanover Street Foundry (11s. 6d.), Amal. Textile Warehousemen (£1 1s.), per M. Gardener, Sec., Preston and District Textile Trades Fed. (£1 1s.), North Lancs. Card and Blowing Room Assoc. (10s.), Secretary of Powerloom Weavers' Assoc. from Association (£3 3s.), per E. J. Andrew, Esq., from Members of the Reform Club, Preston, towards "Proud Preston" Bed (£2 10s.), per W. A. Lingard, Esq., Secretary, Tapers' Assoc. (£3 3s.), Jas. Billington, Esq., J.P., Sec., Preston Provincial Assoc. Operative Cotton Spinners (£2 2s.), Members of Preston W.S.S.: Miss Penny (2s. 6d.), Mrs. Stanwell (10s.), Mrs. Farnworth (10s.), Mrs. Wilding (10s.), Park School (£5), Park School Staff (£2), W. D. Moore, Esq. (£1), Mrs. Moore (£1 1s.), Miss Scotia (10s.), Col. Copper (10s.), Miss Berry (10s.) (£12 3s. 6d.)	38	0	10
Mrs. J. H. Drysdale	5	0	0
*Miss J. Hosaack	5	0	0
*Dr. Mary Phillips, further proceeds of Leeds Lecture, for "Anzac Memorial Fund" (previously acknowledged, £68 2s. 1d., of which £25 was earmarked to name "Boston Spa" Bed)—Total for "Anzac Memorial Fund," £44 4s. 7d.	1	2	6
*Per Mrs. Thorpe, Hon. Sec., Ross W.S.S., (further towards "Ross" Bed, Corsica)	3	0	
Miss Drummond	2	2	0
*Dunfermline W.S.S., per Mrs. MacKinnon: Miss E. Burt (£1), R. Burt (5s.), Smaller sums (17s.), Collected by Miss E. Burt: Profit on sale of COMMON CAUSE (1s. 6d.), Miss Robbie (5s.), Collected by Miss Moseley (6s.)	2	14	6
Children of the Council School, Kirkham, Lancs, per Miss E. Brook, The County Office (Serbians)	10	0	
*Southport W.S.S., per Miss Grundy (towards 2nd 6 months, "Southport" Bed): Mrs. Chance (£1 1s.), Miss Hannah Steel (£1)	2	1	0
Miss E. Raeburn	1	0	0
Mr. and Mrs. Richardson (Royaumont)	100	0	0
Anon., North Berwick	5	0	0
Collected by Miss Lydia M. Mackay: Miss Turnbull (2s. 6d.), Miss Gray (10s.), Mrs. Taylor (5s.), Miss Smith (10s.), Anon. (2s.), Mrs. Machan (2s. 6d.), Mrs. Dickson (7s. 6d.), Anon. (1s.), Rev. R. Hart (2s. 6d.), Mrs. McLennan (5s.), Miss Anderson (10s.), Miss Burns (2s. 6d.), Mrs. Wilson (2s. 6d.), "One of the Clan" (2s. 6d.), Mrs. Hutcheson (1s.), Mrs. Swan (5s.), Mrs. A. Horsburgh (2s. 6d.), Mrs. Campbell Douglas (2s. 6d.), Miss Cowan (10s.), Lord Guthrie (10s.), Mrs. Guthrie (5s.), Mrs. Mack (2s.), Proceeds of Sale of Ring given by G. E. (£1 1s.), Mrs. Mackie, in Memory of her Daughter, Lydia Eudora (£5), Miss L. Swan (5s.), Mrs. Macvean (10s.), Miss Etta Wilson (10s.), J. A. B. (10s.), Mrs. Steele (4s.), Miss S. Cowan (10s.), Anon., "A Well-Wisher" (2s.), Mrs. I. Denholm (5s.), Anon., Edinburgh (£1), "One recovered from a long illness" (£1), Mrs. H. Graham (1s.), Miss E. A. Clark (10s.), Mrs. Muir (3s.), Max J. Myer, Esq. (10s.), Mr. M. Ross (3s.), Miss Edgar (2s. 6d.), Mrs. Douglas (5s.), Miss Moncrieff (2s. 6d.), Miss Cameron (5s.), D. S. C. (5s.), Miss Maud Aitchison (5s.), Miss Innes (5s.), Dr. John Aitken (£2 2s.), Miss Turnbull (5s.), Mrs. Beverdige (5s.), Mrs. Macalister (10s.), Mrs. Ormiston (2s. 6d.), *J. A. B. (£1), Miss B. K. Thomson (£1), Miss Henry (2s. 6d.), Mrs. Kennedy (10s.), Miss Martin (5s.), Mrs. A. A. Dickson (10s.), "A Sympathiser" (5s.), Wm. Mackenzie, Esq. (£5), "A Friend" (6s. 6d.), Miss Fraser (10s.)—(£25 to name "Scottish Invalids" Bed, Royaumont; £6 10s. for Serbian Refugees, Ajaccio)	31	10	0
Miss F. J. Stevenson	1	0	0
Miss E. J. K. Smith	1	0	0
*J. G. Thorburn, Esq.	5	0	0
Mrs. Rottenburg	5	0	0
Collected from Scotsmen in Burma, per J. Morison, Esq., Rangoon (to name "Burma" Bed, Royaumont)	50	0	0
Miss Wight (for Dr. McIlroy's Unit, Salonika)	10	0	
Dr. John D. McKendrick ...	1	1	0
Proceeds of Lecture and Entertainment at Great Missenden, per Mid Bucks W.S.S., per Miss Courtauld	12	4	3
Miss E. B. A. Kay	5	0	
Per Miss Bury: Employees of Fife Electric Power Works, Dunfermline ...	1	15	0
*Per Mrs. Cursiter, Hon. Treas., Orcadian W.S.S. (£20 7s. 11d. for General Funds, £25 to complete "Orcadian" Bed, Royaumont, till Dec., 1916): Collected from Members of Society, and part proceeds of Concert	45	7	11
"A Sympathiser"	20	0	0
Bromsgrove and District W.S.S., per Miss Green, Hon. Treas. (to name "Bromsgrove" Bed for 6 months): Proceeds of Lecture by Dr. M. Phillips ...	25	0	0
*Per Mrs. Robertson: Ayrshire Miners, to name "Dalry District Miners" Bed, 6 months, Salonika (£25), *Employees of Messrs. Glenfield & Kennedy (£16 16s. 11d.), Kilmarnock Art Club, half proceeds of Exhibition Concerts, per Mr. J. C. Smith (£11), St. Marnock's Church Choir, per Mr. Bryson (£2 2s.), *Employees of Caledonia Works (£5 4s. 10d.), *Employees of Messrs. Boyd & Forrest (£2 15s. 4d.)	62	19	1
Miss Belfrage	1	0	0
Per Miss B. Bird: Part proceeds of Lecture and Concert for further upkeep of Bed	6	10	0
Miss Stewart	2	0	0
Miss G. J. Rait (for Blankets for Salonika)	2	10	0
Miss Shiels	5	0	0
Children of Crosshill School, Glencraig, per Miss Dunbar (Serbia)	1	1	0
Proceeds of Drawing-room Meeting by Mrs. Inglis Clark (towards "Newington" Bed, Royaumont) ...	16	0	6
*Miss Margaret A. Gray, Royaumont (to name Bed "In Memory of Miss Mary Gray" in Elsie Inglis Ward, Royaumont)	25	0	0
Messrs. Wm. Calvert & Sons, Ltd., Preston, per A. C. Hindmarsh, Esq.	12	3	7
Bridlington W.S.S., per Mrs. B. A. Overbury, Hon. Sec. ...	5	5	0
*Edinburgh W.S.S., per Mrs. Wilson, Hon. Treas.: Employees of Messrs. John Cran & Co., Albert Engine Works, Leith (£2 6s. 5d.), Employees of Messrs. Hawthorn & Co., Leith (£20 1s. 3d.), Member, Women's Guild, St. Cuthbert's Co-operative Association, Norton Park Branch (£1 2s.), Mr. and Mrs. Pitman (£5), *Printing and Kindred Trades Federation (£10 10s.), Employees, Edinburgh Roperie & Sailcloth Co., Leith (£13 14s. 6d.), "In Memoriam," Member of N.U.W.S.S. (£10)	62	14	2
*Mrs. Macgregor	5	0	0
Proceeds of Sale of Verses by Miss McGregor	1	0	0
Lochranza, Arran	3	0	
"Blackwater," Blairgowrie ...	1	0	0
Glenfarg W.S.S., per Miss Seaton, Hon. Sec.: Mrs. Turner	1	6	
Mrs. Maclean	1	0	0
Unemployment Insurance, Women's Staff, Divisional Office, Board of Trade, Warrington, per Miss E. Hobson (1st instalment towards naming "Unemployment Insurance Women's Staff, Divisional Office, Warrington" Bed)	4	3	4
J. C. L. P.	2	0	
*Bedales School, Petersfield, per J. H. Badley, Esq. (to name "Bedales School, Petersfield II." Bed, Royaumont)	50	0	0
Miss J. C. Dickson (towards "Isabella" Bed, Royaumont, 2nd year)	5	0	
R. B. M.	3	3	0
*Per Mrs. Pares: Collected at Meeting addressed by Miss Pares, Meeting organised by Mrs. Rousby and Miss Martin (Serbian Refugees)...	4	8	0
Mrs. Morris (Royaumont) ...	2	0	0
Mrs. Begg, per Miss Dow ...	1	0	0
*Miss Isabella Laing (towards 2nd year of "Isabella" Bed, Royaumont)	10	0	
*Miss Shields (for "Isabella" Bed, 2nd year)	1	1	0
Mrs. Sim (for "Isabella" Bed, 2nd year)	5	0	
Total for week	601	11	4
Brought forward	90,405	1	3½
	91,006	12	7½
Less £13 returned to Sidmouth W.S.S. intended for Russian Unit, as acknowledged in last week's COMMON CAUSE ...	13	0	0
Total	£90,993	12	7½

* Denotes additional donation.

The Hon. Treasurer begs once more to thank all those who have helped and are helping to carry on the work, and will gratefully receive further donations. Cheques should be sent to the Hon. Secretary, 2, St. Andrew Square, Edinburgh, or to the Hon. Treasurer, Mrs. Laurie, Red House, Greenock, and crossed "Royal Bank of Scotland."

FURTHER LIST OF BEDS NAMED.

Name of Bed.	*Donor.*
"Calcutta" (Corsica, 1 year)	Per Mrs. Gunn: Collected by Miss Duncan and R. Duncan, Esq., Horolocko, Budge Budge.
"Scottish Invalids" (Royaumont, 6 months)	Collected by Miss Mackay, 1, Braidburn Terrace, Edinburgh.
"Burma" (Royaumont, 1 year)	Collected from Scotsmen in Burma by J. Morison, Esq., Rangoon.
"Orcadian" (Royaumont, to complete for year ending December, 1916) ...	Per Mrs. Cursitor, Hon. Treas., Orcadian W.S.S., Daisybank, Kirkwall.
"Bromsgrove" (6 months)	Bromsgrove W.S.S., per Miss Green, Whitford, Bromsgrove: Proceeds of Lecture by Dr. Mary Phillips.
"Dalry District Miners" (Salonika, 6 months)	Ayrshire Miners, per Mrs. Robertson, Morningside, Kilmarnock.
"In Memory of Miss Mary Gray" (Royaumont, Elsie Inglis Ward, 6 months)	Miss Margaret A. Gray, at Royaumont, of Oakleigh Lodge, Leven.
"Bedales School, Petersfield, II." (Royaumont, 1 year)	Bedales School, per J. H. Badley, Esq., Headmaster, Petersfield, Hants.

Correction.—Mrs. Jefferd, Hon. Treasurer, Tiverton W.S.S., desires the following correction made in list of last week: Mrs. Morrison (£5) should be Mrs. Unwin; Lady Conway (£10) should be Lady Heathcoat Amory.

The Hon. Treasurer begs once more to thank all those who have helped and are helping, and will gratefully receive further contributions to carry on the work. Cheques should be sent to the Hon. Secretary, 2, St. Andrew Square, Edinburgh, or to the Hon. Treasurer, Mrs. Laurie, Red House, Greenock, and crossed "Royal Bank of Scotland."

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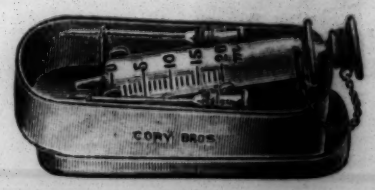

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Miss Matieson's Meeting ...	1	16	10
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Mrs. Quelch		10	0
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Forthcoming Meetings.

MARCH 5.

Birmingham—Food Economy Lecture, Grove Lane 8.0

Birmingham—"Women and the Home"—Mrs. Ring—Social Guild, New Street 7.0

Winchester—Annual Meeting at the Co-operative Hall—Report and Balance-sheet will be presented—An address will be given by the President and Lady Laura Ridding on "Readjustment" 3.0

MARCH 6.

Birmingham — Church House, Handsworth Motherhood—Mrs. Attlee 3.0

Birmingham — Co-operative Guild, Bearwood Motherhood—Mrs. Attlee 8.0

Birmingham — Severn Street Adult School Motherhood—Mrs. H. L. Wilson 3.0

MARCH 7.

Birmingham—St. Mary's Hostel—"Our Work after the War"—Mrs Ring 5.30

MARCH 8.

Birmingham—Bournville Guild Motherhood—Mrs. Ring 3.0

Birmingham—Stirchley Adult School Motherhood—Mrs. Ring 7.30

Birkenhead—Town Hall—Joint Meeting with Conservative and Unionist Women's Franchise Association in aid of the Maternity Unit for the Relief of Polish Refugees—Speakers, Miss Geraldine Cooke and Miss E. Rathbone—Chair, The Mayor 8.0

Cambridge—Clough Hall, Newnham College—Speakers, Miss Gladys Rinder on "The Employment of Women as Affected by the War," followed by Miss Allen, Principal of the Homerton Training College for Women Teachers; Miss Clough on "The British Women's Maternity Unit for Polish Refugees" 3.0

MARCH 9.

Cirencester—Annual Meeting—Chair, Mr. Percival—Speaker, Miss Sterling—Collection in aid of Polish Maternity Unit

Epsom—Hostess, Mrs. Bethell, "The Gables"—Speaker, Mrs. Oliver Strachey 3.0

Central Hackney—Women's Liberal Association, 216, Mare Street, Hackney—Speaker, Miss Rosamond Smith 3.0

Highgate—3, Holly Terrace—Study Circle—2nd and 4th Thursdays—"War and Democracy"

Scottish Women's Hospitals: London Units.

MARCH 3rd.—A Drawing-room Meeting will be held by kind permission of Mrs. Ernest Howard, at 67, Finchley Road—Speaker, Mrs. Hubert Druce—"With a Serbian Camp-Hospital." The Chair will be taken by Dr. Agnes Savill at 3.30.

MARCH 6th.—A Lantern Lecture on the Work of the Scottish Women's Hospitals will be given by Miss Beatrice Hunter at Conamur School, Sandgate.

MARCH 10th.—Mrs. Green will give an address, illustrated by lantern slides, at the Office, 1A, Mount Street, on her experiences with the Scottish Women's Hospitals in Serbia.

MARCH 16th.—Leamington—Town Hall—Lantern Lecture—"Our Work at the Front in France and Serbia"—Dr. Mary Phillips (of the Serbian Unit)—Chair, The Mayor of Leamington, at 3 p.m.

Working Parties.

Birkenhead—Theosophical Society's Rooms, 48A, Hamilton Street—Working Party for the N.U.W.S.S. Scottish Women's Hospitals 2nd and 4th Monday in the month, 2.0

Blackheath and Greenwich Sewing Party for Scottish Women's Hospital—at 8, Shooter's Hill Road—Hostess, Mrs. Monk Every Tuesday, 2.0—6.0

Bolton—Suffrage Shop, Bradshawgate—Working Party for the N.U.W.S.S. Scottish Women's Hospitals Every Monday, 2.30, and every Thursday at 8.0

Bournemouth—At 167, Old Christchurch Road—for the Polish Refugees Maternity Unit Every Monday, 3.0—6.0

Bridlington—Sewing Party for the N.U.W.S.S. Scottish Women's Hospitals Every Wednesday, 3.0—6.0

Bristol—Working Party at 40, Park Street 3.0 p.m.

Buxton—At Collinson's Café—Sewing Meeting for Manchester and District Field Hospital—Visitors invited Every Thursday, 2.30

Chiswick and Bedford Park—Working Party for London Units of the N.U.W.S.S. Scottish Women's Hospitals Every Thursday, 3 to 6 p.m.

Croydon—Working Party every Monday for Serbian Unit, at Walden, Stanhope Road. This address is the depôt for the Surrey, Sussex, and Hants Federation, where all work and appliances can be sent.

Eastbourne—At the Club, 134, Terminus Road—Sewing Party for the N.U.W.S.S. Hospitals in France and Serbia Every Monday, 2.30—4.30

Farnham—At Bourne Lodge—Working Party for the Russian Maternity Unit On Thursday, at 2.45—4.15 p.m.

Guildford and District—Working Party for Scottish Women's Hospitals and Russian Maternity Unit, at the Office, 1A, Mount Street Fridays, 3.0—6.0

Highgate—At 26, West Hill—Hostess, Mrs. Garnett—Members and friends cordially invited every 3rd Friday 3.0—5.0

Huddersfield—Sewing Meetings will be held at the Office, 41 Spring Street Every Tuesday, 2.30

Paddington—22, Kildare Terrace, Westbourne Grove (by kind permission of Mrs. Barstow)—Working Party for London Units of the N.U.W.S.S. Scottish Women's Hospitals Every day, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Redhill—At Miss Woodward's, 10, Fengates Road—Sewing Party Every Wednesday, 2.15

Reigate—For N.U.W.S.S. Scottish Women's Hospitals and Maternity Unit for Polish Refugees—February 28th and alternate Mondays 2.30

Scarborough—6, Falconer Chambers—Working Party Every Tuesday, 2.45

Shipley and Baildon—Ladies' Parlour of Saltaire Congregational Church School—Sewing Meeting Every Thursday, 2.30

Solihull—Church House—Working Party for making comforts for the Italian troops Every Monday, 3.0

South Kensington—Belgian Hostel, 1, Argyll Road—Working Party for London Units of the N.U.W.S.S. Scottish Women's Hospitals Every Tuesday and Friday, 2 to 4.30

Wakefield—St. John's Institute—Sewing Party Every Wednesday, 2.30—6.0

Warwick and Leamington—35, Warwick Street, Leamington—Working Party to make Sand Bags Every Tuesday and Friday, 2.30

Hospital Garments Every Wednesday, 2.30

Worcester.

Miss House asks us to state that she is no longer Hon. Secretary of the Worcester W.S.S. The new Hon. Secretary is Miss E. Williams, 19, Droitwich Road.

Surrey, Sussex, and Hants Federation.

EASTBOURNE.—On January 19th, a whist drive, held at St. Winifred's by kind permission of the principals, raised £6. On February 8th the Rev. James Reid lectured on "Robert Louis Stevenson," in the Saffron Rooms, the Mayor presiding, supported by the Vice-Chairman and the Hon. Secretary of the local Belgian Refugees Committee. The whole proceeds, £26, were given to that Committee. Three delegates attended the Council meeting at Chelsea.

Kilmacolm.

Since October the work party has been most energetic, contributing over 200 articles to the Scottish Women's Hospitals. At Christmas time the pupils and old girls of St. Columba's School got up several entertainments, from the results of which they have given a second £75 for the continuance of their three beds in the Scottish Women's Hospitals.

Interest in the Hospitals has been splendidly maintained, and on Tuesday, February 22nd, a large audience gathered to hear Dr. Mary Phillips's lecture. Mr. John F. Adams presided, and Mr. R. E. Taylor spoke most appreciatively of the work. Dr. Phillips's lantern slides helped greatly to make her subject a living thing, and the collection of £22 11s. 6d. almost provides another bed for Kilmacolm.

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Ten words, 9d. per insertion; every additional ten words, 6d. per insertion. All advertisements should be addressed to The Manager, The Common Cause Publishing Co., Ltd., 14, Great Smith-st., Westminster, and must be received not later than first post Wednesday.

ANNOUNCEMENTS.

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S FRANCHISE CLUB, 9, Grafton-st., Piccadilly, W.—Meeting, March 8th, 8 p.m. "Woman and the Law," by Mr. Langdon, K.C.

MEMORIAL HALL, MANCHESTER, Tuesday, March 21st, at 7.30 p.m., Unfamiliar Works for one and two Pianofortes, by HOPE SQUIRE and FRANK MERRICK. Tickets, 5s. (reserved), 2s. 6d., and 1s., from Messrs. Forsyth Bros., Ltd., 126, Deansgate, and at the door.

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